

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 6, 2016

Media Contact:
Joel McAuliffe
413-594-1506
JMcAuliffe@Chicopeema.gov

43 old Navy housing buildings torn down; Solar farm project moves forward

CHICOPEE – The demolition of the former Navy Housing property on James Street and its redevelopment as a solar field continues to move forward with more than 43 buildings having been torn down to date.

The City Council previously approved \$1 million last year for environmental testing, design work, and demolition which matched a \$1 million grant from Massachusetts Development Finance Agency.

The City of Chicopee had previously acquired the 27 acres of unused military housing which has remained vacant for several years. The purchase of the site was initially explored in 2005 and acquired in 2011 by the City.

Once the site is cleared, construction will begin on a solar farm that will allow Westover Air Reserve Base to lower their energy bill and further the City's long-term renewable energy goals.

"We are excited to finally see progress being made on this site," said Mayor Kos. "For too long these buildings have been a blight and major safety concern for the neighborhood. We are able to address those issues while providing a resource for Westover and the City.

###

